

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /084 W

----- 114185

R 071037Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

SECSTATE WASHDC 5002

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BANGKOK FOR CLAPP OF USOM, BENNETT AND KRANKER OF USAID/LAOS,  
AND MYERS OF EMB VIENTIANE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LA, US

SUBJ: USAID/LAOS CONTRACT AID-439-CS-012 WITH MANLEY ENTERPRISES

REF: BANGKOK 16218 (AIDAC) AND PREVIOUS

1. WE DID INDEED RECEIVE BANGKOK 14453, BUT WE  
INTERPRETED IT AS APPLYING PRIMARILY TO QUESTION OF MANLEY'S  
ENTITLEMENT TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR COST OF BAGS. IT DID NOT  
RPT NOT ADDRESS DIRECTLY MANLEY'S MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST,  
WHICH WAS AND IS TO GET THE BAGS OFF HIS HANDS AND THUS AVOID  
ANY STIGMA IN EYES OF PGNU AS A "USAID CONTRACTOR" LIKE  
UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES, INC. BANGKOK 14453 APPEARED  
RELEVANT TO THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM ONLY IF IT POINTED TOWARD  
DETERMINATION THAT BAGS WERE NOT RPT NOT USAID PROJECT-  
FUNDED BUT RATHER MANLEY'S OWN PROPERTY TO DISPOSE OF AS HE  
SAW FIT. IS SUCH A DETERMINATION CONCEIVABLE? (EVEN IF  
SUCH A DETERMINATION WERE MADE, WE ARE NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN  
THAT IT WOULD SET MANLEY'S MIND AT REST SINCE, AS WE  
UNDERSTAND IT, BAGS WERE CLEARED THROUGH LAO CUSTOMS FOR  
HIM FREE OF DUTY BY USAID/LAOS.)

2. MANLEY CALLED AT EMBASSY EVENING 6 AUGUST. IT  
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WAS CLEAR FROM CONVERSATION THAT DISPOSITION OF BAGS

REMAINS HIS OVERRIDING CONCERN. HE AGAIN DISCUSSED WITH US VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR REMOVING THEM FROM THE THREE PLACES WHERE THEY ARE NOW LOCATED. POSSIBILITIES INCLUDED MOVEMENT BY COMMERCIAL TRUCKS HIRED BY EMBASSY; DONATION TO UNHCR, WHICH COULD THEN HIRE TRUCKS TO MOVE THEM; AND TURNOVER OF THOSE BAGS STORED AT WAREHOUSE COLOCATED WITH MANLEY'S OFFICE TO NATIONAL RICE OFFICE (FORMERLY ADO) NEXT DOOR.

3. WHILE ANY OF THESE POSSIBILITIES MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO INVITING PGNU TO PICK UP BAGS WHERE THEY ARE NOW STORED, GROWING PREVALENCE OF (PATHET LAO) POLICE CHECKPOINTS AND ROVING PATROLS MAKES IT LIKELY THAT HAULING LARGE QUANTITY OF BAGS WOULD ATTRACT POLICE ATTENTION AND COULD LEAD BACK TO MANLEY'S DOOR. ACCORDING TO MANLEY'S RECORDS, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 450 BALES OF BAGS, WEIGHING AVERAGE 350 KILOS EACH; MOVEMENT WILL OBVIOUSLY REQUIRE MANY TRUCKLOADS.

4. WE ARE SOMEWHAT ATTRACTED TO UNHCR OPTION BUT ARE NOT CERTAIN OF FEASIBILITY, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF DETERMINATION THAT BAGS ARE ANYTHING OTHER THAN USAID PROJECT-FUNDED PROPERTY AND THEREFORE DESTINED FOR ABANDONMENT/TURNOVER TO PGNU.

5. WITH REGARD TO INVOICES DEMONSTRATING ACTUAL NET COST OF BAGS (BANGKOK 14453, PARA 3), THESE WERE POUCHED TO BANGKOK ON/ABOUT 23 JULY FOR ATTENTION OF USAID/LAOS PERSONNEL, AND MYERS WAS TO FOLLOW UP ON ARRIVAL BANGKOK TWO DAYS LATER.

6. WISH TO STRESS OUR VIEW THAT MANLEY HAS BEEN REMARKABLY PATIENT, CONSIDERING THAT -- ACCORDING TO HIM -- MEETING WITH USAID/LAOS PERSONNEL TO RESOLVE QUESTION OF BAGS WERE SCHEDULED NEARLY THREE MONTHS AGO BUT WERE DISRUPTED BY OCCUPATION OF NA HAI DIAO AND OTHER EVENTS. NOW, HE IS SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT EFFECT THAT HIS HOLDING BAGS COULD HAVE ON HIS ABILITY TO DO BUSINESS HERE AND IS CONSIDERING INVOKING AID OF ASST SEC HABIB, EA, WHOM HE KNOWS THROUGH ASIA-PACIFIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVITIES, AND OF SEN DEWEY BARTLETT OF OKLAHOMA, WHERE MANLEY'S FATHER RESIDES. WE HAVE URGED MANLEY TO WAIT FOR FURTHER EFFORTS BY AID/W AND USAID/LAOS PERSONNEL IN BANGKOK TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES BEFORE TAKING SUCH A STEP.  
CHAPMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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